

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Branch (1145b)
Post Office Box 6898
Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 99506-6898

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: 5 February 2007

EXPIRATION DATE: 7 March 2007

REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-1991-721-1

WATERWAY: Kenai River

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the attached plan.

<u>APPLICANT</u>: Kenai River Property Owners Association, Inc., P.O. Box 1073, Sterling, Alaska 99673. Contact: Mr. Bill Bailey, phone (907) 260-3725.

LOCATION: Kenai Keys Subdivision, Kenai River Mile 44, right bank, within Section 35, T. 5 N., R. 8 W., Seward Meridian, near Sterling, Alaska; Longitude: 150.622°W., Latitude: 60.486°N.

WORK: Dredge canals in Kenai Keys Subdivision. The proposed project would clean the high places in the canals when they are dry, beginning with the upper end and working toward the mouth at the Kenai River. The canals would not be made deeper than they originally were. The canals would maintain their slope so they can drain without trapping fish. A centerline profile of the bottom depth of each canal will be done at low water level. This profile will determine the number of high places to be removed. Equipment will enter and exit each canal at existing boat launching sites at the upper end of the canal. Dredged material would be disposed of in an upland location.

<u>Purpose:</u> Maintain recreational boat access for residents of Kenai Keys Subdivision. Remove high spots that can potentially trap fish.

Additional Information: The proposed project is necessary because the canals, which were excavated when the subdivision was established 34 years ago, have accumulated organic debris that has reduced their depth. In addition, silt has accumulated near the mouth of each canal, hampering transit by motorboat during the spring and fall. Furthermore, each canal has numerous high spots that can trap fish when the water recedes in the fall.

MITIGATION MEASURES: The applicant has proposed to incorporate the following mitigation measures to minimize the impacts to the aquatic environment.

1. No damage would be done to vegetation or banks along the canals.

- 2. Equipment will enter and exit each canal at existing boat launching sites at the upper end of the canal.
- 3. All dredge material will be deposited in an upland area.
- 4. No equipment refueling will be done within or near the canal or Kenai River banks.
- 5. Temporary silt dams and other erosion control measures will be used to minimize the migration of silt from the excavated area.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT CERTIFICATION: Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone, Management Act of 1972, as amended by 16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3), requires the applicant to certify that the described activity affecting land or water uses in the Coastal Zone complies with the Alaska Coastal Management Program. A permit will not be issued until the Office of Management and Budget, Division of Governmental Coordination has concurred with the applicant's certification.

<u>PUBLIC HEARING:</u> Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There is an unevaluated property in the vicinity of the worksite. It has been designated Middle Killey River House Pit (KEN-00350). Because the property has been determined to be outside of the project area, no further action is required. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer at this time. This application is being coordinated with SHPO. Any comments SHPO may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area. Preliminarily, the described activity will not affect threatened or endangered species, or their critical habitat designated as endangered or threatened, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat.

844). This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The proposed work is being evaluated for possible effects to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) pursuant to the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1996, 16 U.S.C. et seq and associated federal regulations found at 50 CFR 600 Subpart K. The Alaska District includes areas of EFH as Fishery Management Plans. We have reviewed the January 20, 1999, North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Environmental Assessment to locate EFH area as identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

We have determined that the described activity within the proposed area may adversely affect EFH, including anadromous fish and federally managed fishery resources.

SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATION: Kenai River Special Management Area.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all those factors, which become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur, are therefore determined by the outcome of the general balancing process. That decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

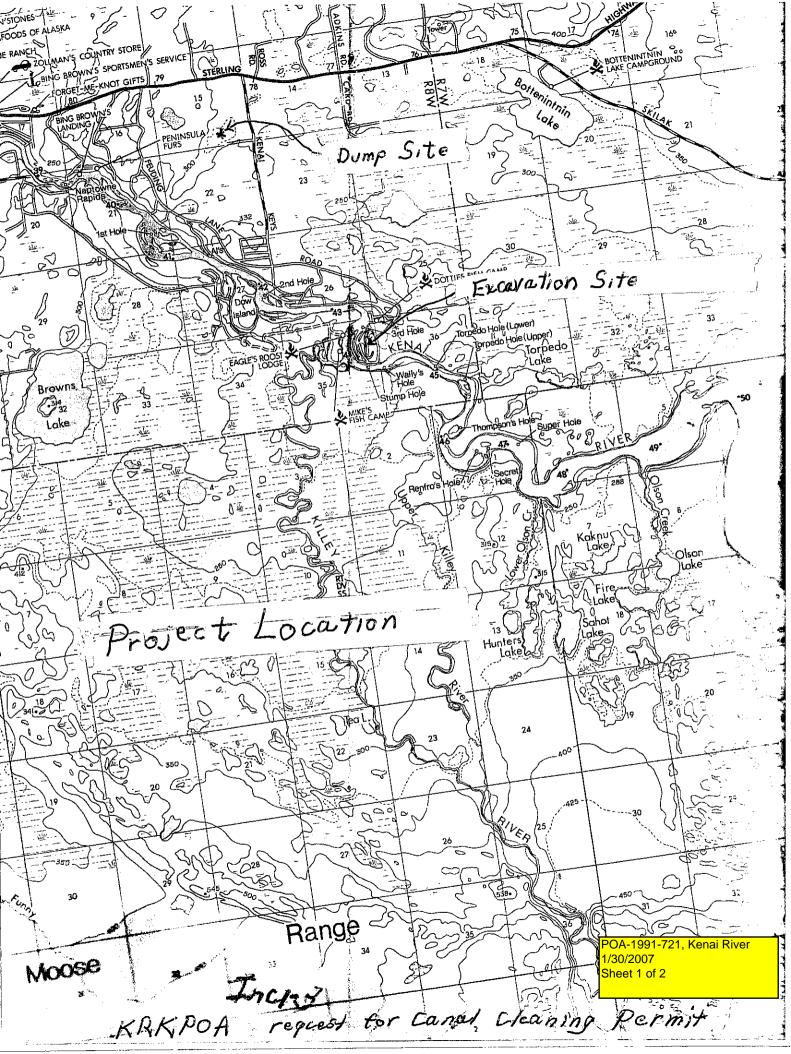
Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Mr. Daniel Smith at (907) 753-2715 or toll free in Alaska at (800) 478-2712, if further information is desired concerning this notice.

<u>AUTHORITY</u>: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities:

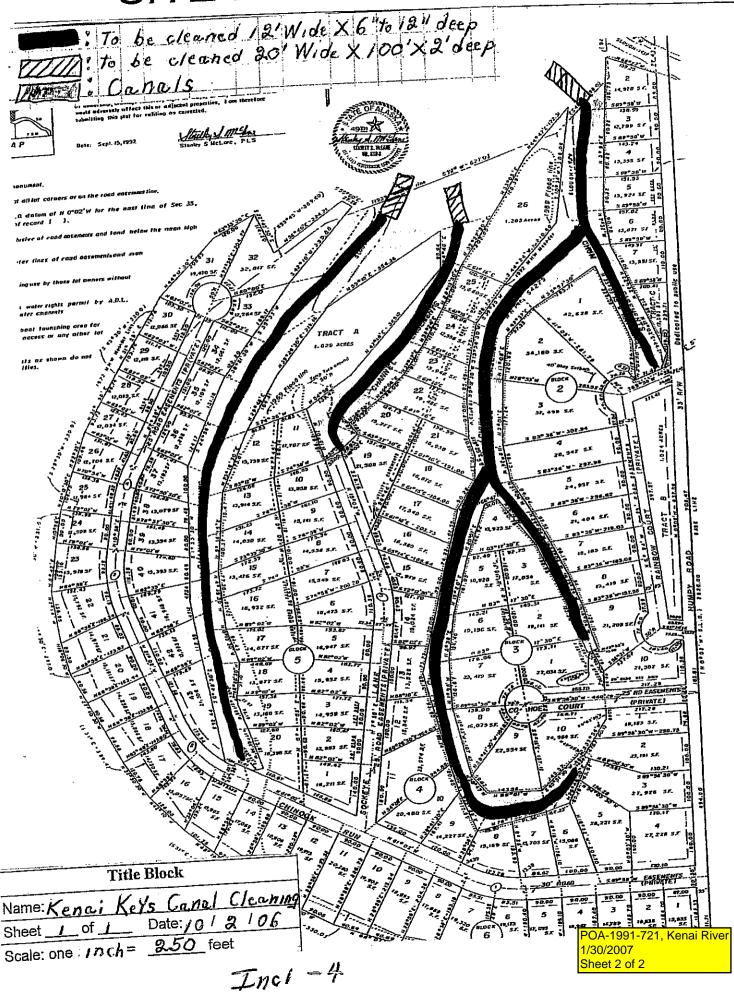
(X) Perform work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States -Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403). A plan and Notice of Application for Certification of Consistency with the Alaska Coastal Management Program are attached to this Public Notice.

District Engineer U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Attachments



SITE PLAN: TOP VIEW



STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMNT AND PERMITTING

OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING 550 WEST 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 705 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3559 PHONE: (907) 269-7470/FAX: (907) 269-3981

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION OF CONSISTENCY WITH THE ALASKA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Notice is hereby given that a request is being filed with the Office of Project Management and Permitting for a consistency determination, as provided in Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended [16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3)], that the project described in the Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. **POA-1991-721-1, Kenai River**, will comply with the Alaska Coastal Management Program and that the project will be conducted in a manner consistent with that program.

The Office of Project Management and Permitting requests your comments, particularly on the proposed project's consistency with the affected local coastal district management program. For more information on the consistency review contact OPMP at (907) 269-7470 or (907) 465-3562, or visit the ACMP web site at http://www.gov.state.ak.us/gdc/Projects/projects.html.